

**Listing of Claims**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

Claim 1 (canceled).

2. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 4, wherein:

said first processing way comprises a way for achieving a high-order image processing for controlling image degradation.

3. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 4, wherein:

said second processing way comprises a way of simply changing the number of pixels without changing the respective pixel values.

4. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 for changing the size of image data of an original image, comprising:

a comparison part comparing an image information value which indicates predetermined image information of the original image, with a corresponding predetermined reference value which is previously set for each of the predetermined image information; and  
a sharing-ratio determining part which, based on a comparison result of said comparison part, determines a sharing ratio in processing for changing the size of the image

data between a first processing way and a second processing way different from said first processing way, wherein:

said sharing-ratio determining part adjusts the sharing ratio in the processing between the first and second processing ways so that the entire process of a predetermined image size-change processing is completed within a given time duration when a required processing time which is taken for performing the entire processing of the predetermined image size-change processing exceeds the given time duration.

5. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 4, wherein:

said comparison part compares an image data size-change rate required with a predetermined reference value instead of comparing the predetermined image information value of the original image.

6. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 4, wherein:

the information of the image information value and predetermined reference value which said comparison part compares comprises information concerning the data size of the original image.

7. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 4, wherein:

the information of the image information value and predetermined reference value

which said comparison part compares comprises information concerning the number of colors expressible by each pixel of the original image.

8. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 4,  
wherein:

the information of the image information value and predetermined reference value  
which said comparison part compares comprises information concerning the resolution of the  
original image.

9. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 4,  
wherein:

the information of the image information value and predetermined reference value  
which said comparison part compares comprises information as to whether or not the original  
image is a color image or a monochrome image.

10. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 4,  
wherein:

the sharing ratio between the first and second processing ways is determined  
according to a predetermined attribute of the original image.

11. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 4,  
wherein:

the sharing ratio between the first and second processing ways is determined

according to a permissible time duration for completing the entire process of a relevant image size-change processing.

12. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 4, wherein:

said first processing way comprises a process for preventing a jaggy from becoming conspicuous.

13. (original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein:  
the predetermined attribute of the original image which is used for determining the sharing ratio by said sharing-ratio determining part comprises the number of used colors in the original image.

14. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 4, wherein:

the sharing ratio between the first and second processing ways is determined by said sharing-ratio determining part according to the contents of image processing in the entire process of a relevant image size-change processing.

15. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim [[1]] 4, wherein an application of the first and second processing ways is made in such a manner that one of the first and second processing way is applied, and, after that, the other processing way is applied.

16. (original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the application of the first and second processing ways is made in such a manner that one of the first and second processing way, which one requires a longer processing time, is applied first, and, after that, the other processing way is applied.

17. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein an application of the first and second processing ways is made in such a manner that one of a first mode and a second mode is selected according to a comparison result of said comparison part,

wherein said first mode is such that both said first and second processing ways are applied in a combination manner, and said second mode is such that only one of the first and second processing ways is applied.

18. (original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said second mode is such that only one of the first and second processing way, which one requires a longer processing time, is applied.

19. (currently amended) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein:

said first processing way comprises an image size-change processing for an integer size-change rate, and said second processing way comprises an image size-change processing for a size-change rate which includes a fraction.

Claim 20 (canceled).

21. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23,  
wherein:

said first processing way comprises a way for achieving a high-order image processing  
for controlling image degradation.

22. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23,  
wherein:

said second processing way comprises a way of simply changing the number of pixels  
without changing the respective pixel values.

23. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An image processing method as claimed in claim 20 for  
changing the size of image data of an original image, comprising:

a comparison step comparing an image information value which indicates  
predetermined image information of the original image, with a corresponding predetermined  
reference value which is previously set for each of the predetermined image information; and  
a sharing-ratio determining step, based on a comparison result of said comparison  
part, determining a sharing ratio in processing for changing the size of the image data  
between a first processing way and a second processing way different from said first  
processing way, wherein:

said sharing-ratio determining step comprises the step of adjusting the sharing ratio in

the processing between the first and second processing ways so that the entire process of a predetermined image size-change processing is completed within a given time duration when a required processing time which is taken for performing the entire processing of the predetermined image size-change processing exceeds the given time duration.

24. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23, wherein:

in said comparison step, an image data size-change ratio required is compared with a predetermined reference value instead of comparing the predetermined image information value of the original image.

25. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23, wherein:

the information of the image information value and predetermined reference value which is applied in said comparison step for comparison comprises information concerning the data size of the original image.

26. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23, wherein:

the information of the image information value and predetermined reference value which is applied in said comparison part for comparison comprises information concerning the number of colors expressible by each pixel of the original image.

27. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23,  
wherein:

the information of the image information value and predetermined reference value  
which is applied in said comparison part for comparison comprises information concerning  
the resolution of the original image.

28. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23,  
wherein:

the information of the image information value and predetermined reference value  
which is applied in said comparison part for comparison comprises information as to whether  
or not the original image is a color image or a monochrome image.

29. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23,  
wherein:

the sharing ratio between the first and second processing ways is determined  
according to a predetermined attribute of the original image.

30. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23,  
wherein:

the sharing ratio between the first and second processing ways is determined  
according to a permissible time duration for completing the entire process of a relevant image  
size-change processing.

31. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23,  
wherein:

said first processing way comprises a process for preventing a jaggy from becoming  
conspicuous.

32. (original) The image processing method claimed in claim 29, wherein:  
the predetermined attribute of the original image which is used for determining the  
sharing ratio in said sharing-ratio determining step comprises the number of used colors in the  
original image.

33. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23,  
wherein:

the sharing ratio between the first and second processing ways is determined in said  
sharing-ratio determining step according to the contents of image processing in the entire  
process of a relevant image size-change processing.

34. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23,  
wherein an application of the first and second processing ways is made in such a manner that  
one of the first and second processing way is applied, and, after that, the other processing way  
is applied.

35. (original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the  
application of the first and second processing ways is made in such a manner that one of the

first and second processing way, which one requires a longer processing time, is applied, and, after that, the other processing way is applied.

36. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23, wherein an application of the first and second processing ways is made in such a manner that one of a first mode and a second mode is selected according to a comparison result of said comparison part,

wherein said first mode is such that both said first and second processing ways are applied in a combination manner, and said second mode is such that only one of the first and second processing ways is applied.

37. (original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 36, wherein said second mode is such that only one of the first and second processing way, which one requires a longer processing time, is applied.

38. (currently amended) The image processing method as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 23, wherein:

said first processing way comprises an image size-change processing for an integer size-change rate, and said second processing way comprises an image size-change processing for a size-change rate which includes a fraction.

39. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in

claim 20.

40. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 21.

41. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 22.

42. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 23.

43. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 24.

44. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 25.

45. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer

executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 26.

46. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 27.

47. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 28.

48. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 29.

49. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 30.

50. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 31.

51. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 32.

52. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 33.

53. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 34.

54. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 35.

55. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 36.

56. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 37.

57. (currently amended) A ~~program for~~ computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions causing a computer to execute each step of the method claimed in claim 38.